

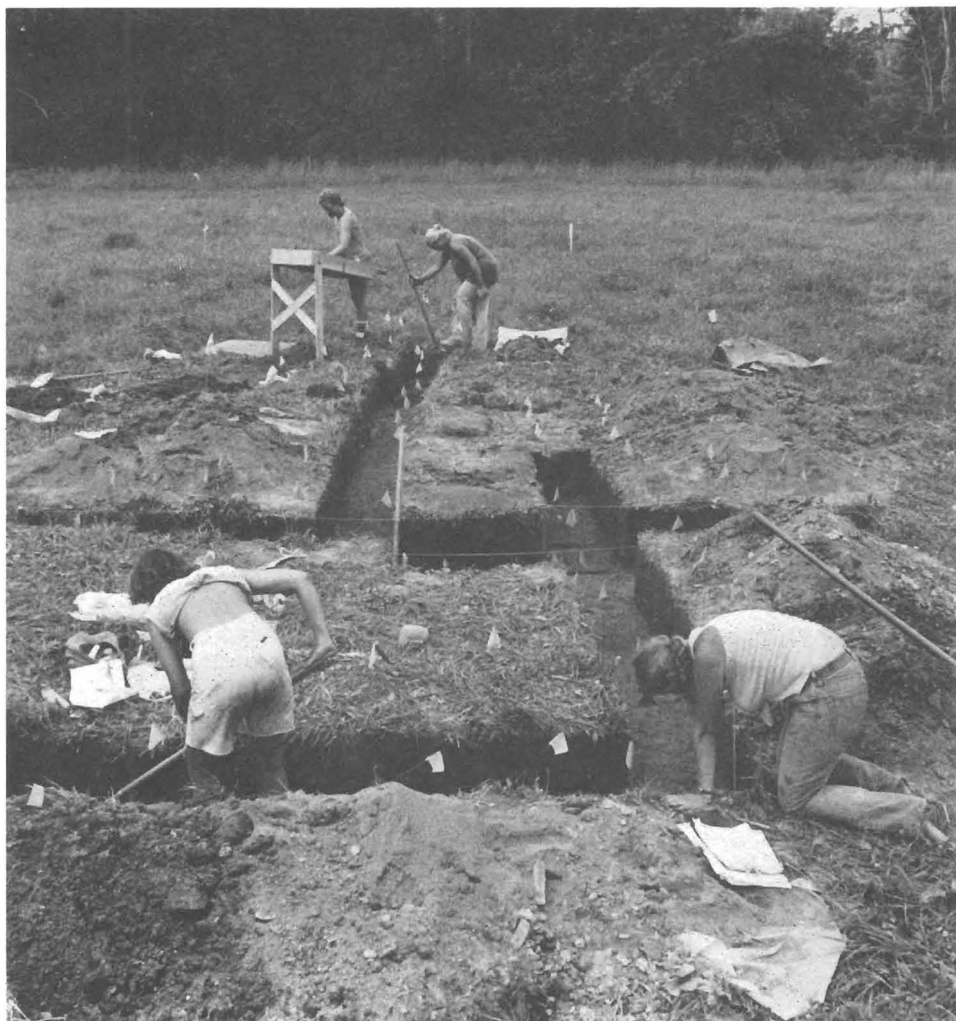
RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DIGGING UP THE PAST



THE WRIGHT ROBERTS SITE WEST RUTLAND, VERMONT

Field crew excavating trenches to locate remains of the burned structure presumed to be the 18th-century residence of Wright Roberts.

THE WRIGHT ROBERTS SITE WEST RUTLAND, VERMONT

by
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Introduction

In the spring of 1983, the Consulting Archaeology Program of the Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, was asked by the Vermont Agency of Transportation to do an archaeological survey for the proposed Route 4 Bypass in Rutland and West Rutland. As mandated by federal law, the survey was conducted to insure that planned construction of the proposed highway would not adversely affect significant prehistoric or historic archaeological sites. During the course of the survey, two prehistoric Indian sites and one unexpected and rather unusual historic archaeological site from the late 18th-century were found. One of the prehistoric sites and the historic site are located in the same area and are designated in the State Archaeologist's site inventory as VT-RU-82, the Wright Roberts site. In this article, the process of conducting an archaeological investigation will be presented and the discovery, analysis and evaluation of the Wright Roberts site will be described.

Location

The project area was located south of Rutland and Center Rutland and east of West Rutland. The planned route of the bypass extends from Route 7 on the east to a new Route 4 interchange in West Rutland (see Figure 1). It crosses the Otter Creek Valley, Boardman Hill and the Clarendon River. Approximately 36% of the alignment lies within the Otter Creek valley, 10% in the Clarendon River floodplain, and 54% in the broad upland area of Boardman Hill that separates the two drainages. Most of the area has remained rural and agricultural since the 1770s. VT-RU-82 is located adjacent to the west bank of the Clarendon River, north of the Route 4 bypass, in an area designated as Area A (see Figure 1). The area was a hayfield at the time the archaeological survey was conducted.

Archaeological Potential of Area A

Because it was not possible or reasonable to dig along the entire construction corridor, several criteria were used to focus efforts on portions of the corridor where archaeological sites might be expected: prehistoric sites, past and present environmental characteristics and information about known sites (such as age, function, location and contents) were considered. For historic period sites, background research was done to determine the area's historical development and to identify the location of specific sites that might be encountered.

Little useful information was available about prehistoric Indian occupation in the general project area. By looking at characteristics of the numerous sites previously identified in downstream portions of the Otter Creek valley, it was determined that prehistoric sites in the project area would most likely be found on floodplains of the Otter Creek and the Clarendon River or gently rolling areas adjacent to the floodplains, but not on the steep upland areas of Boardman Hill. Sites were expected to date from the Late Archaic Period (6000-2700 years ago) or from the latter Woodland Period (1300 years ago to the 18th-century). Evidence of such sites could include stone flaking debris produced during tool manufacture, stone tools themselves, pottery, and features such as hearths.

The availability of written records makes it easier to predict the likelihood of finding historic period sites. Town and county histories and maps and atlases from the 18th through the 20th-centuries were consulted first to understand the general historical development of the area and to understand the forces that produced certain kinds of sites. The same sources provided information about specific sites expected within the general project area.

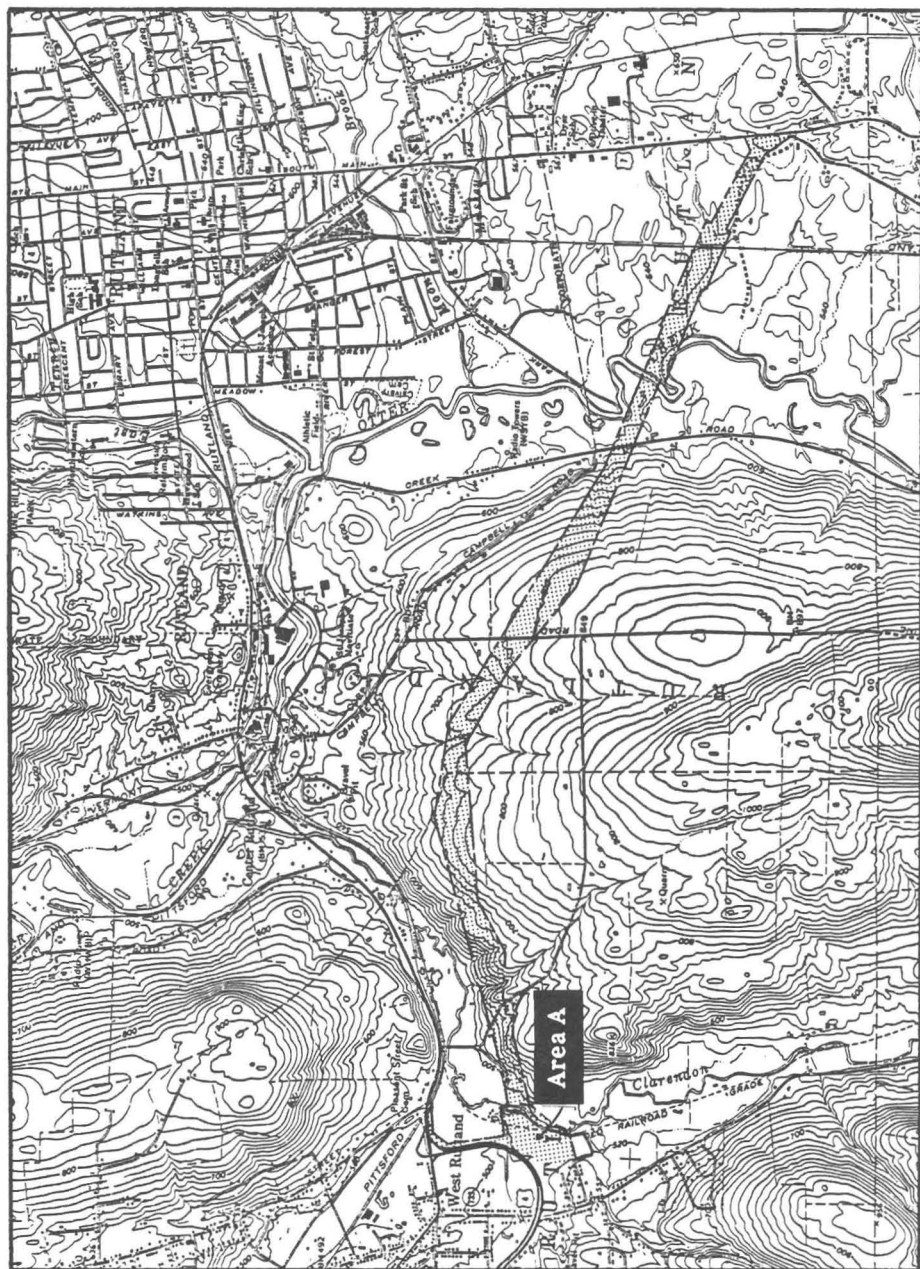


Figure 1. Location of proposed Route 4 Bypass and Area A.

One potential historic site was identified in the general vicinity of Area A. This was an 18th-century house shown only on a map drawn in 1771 (Cockburn 1771; see Figure 2). The house is labeled "Right Roberts". Because no later maps available showed a house here, it was assumed that it was not occupied long.

Some information about Wright Roberts was found. The 19th-century histories repeat the same account of Roberts' arrival in Rutland. James Mead, Wright Roberts' father-in-law, reportedly built a cabin late in 1769 near Center Rutland. In March of 1770, Mead's family, including Sarah, the wife of Wright Roberts, came to take up residence. According to Smith and Rann, 1886, (p. 306), the romantic account continues:

Late in the evening of the third day the little party reached their log house; but it had no roof and the cold and snows ... made it untenable to remain. Not so far distant were camped a party of Caughnawaga Indians, their wigwam and its glowing fire very tempting.

The Indians gave up their shelter and the Mead family lived there until fall when they built a substantial log house. Secondary sources contain no other reference to Wright Roberts.

We did not seriously anticipate finding the Roberts site in the field for several reasons. The location shown on Cockburn's 1771 map is not very precise; no sites from that period have ever been archaeologically identified in Vermont; and finally, it was assumed that an early settler's cabin site would contain minimal structural and artifactual evidence.

Discovery of VT-RU-82

The first phase of digging at Area A was designed to determine the presence or absence of prehistoric sites. Then test pits, located near the northern edge of Area A, produced prehistoric artifacts. No historic period artifacts were found. The area containing the positive test pits was designated as archaeological site VT-RU-82. Additional testing was then done to determine site limits and to obtain more information about the nature of the site. A grid was imposed on the site, and 50x50 cm (1.5x1.5 ft) test pits were dug at 4-meter (13-foot) intervals. Two test pits which contained concentrations of stone flakes were expanded to 1x1 meter square excavation units.

The prehistoric artifact inventory from both phases of testing included large numbers of quartzite and chert stone flakes, one quartzite core which was being worked into a tool, small pieces of burned bone, fire-cracked rock fragments that probably derive from cooking pits, one small sherd of pottery and the base of a triangular chert arrow point. Two concentrations of flakes were noted, one of chert and one of quartzite. The prehistoric artifacts were found in either the plow zone or in a 5 cm thick band between the plow zone and the subsoil.

Although results of the preliminary phases of field testing do not allow us to determine whether VT-RU-82 was a transient hunting station, base camp, village, etc., a number of conclusions can be drawn about the site. The triangular-shaped projectile point and the ceramic sherd indicate that occupation at the site occurred after A.D. 800. Two types of activities took place here: cooking is indicated by the presence of burned bone and fire-cracked rock, and manufacturing of stone tools within two different workshops is indicated by the two concentrations of stone flakes. The results of the testing indicate that the site is at least 4800 square feet in size, but the northern limits of the site have not been determined.

Although no historic period artifacts were found in the Phase I test pits, test pits in the 4-meter grid contained a tightly focused concentration of late 18th-century artifacts and a related archaeological feature. The feature was identified in two test units and consisted of a 3-5 cm (1-2 in) thick layer of ash and charcoal (see Figure 3). This level represents the 18th-century surface. Subsequently, this surface was covered by about a foot of flood deposits which are thick enough to protect this old surface from modern plowing.

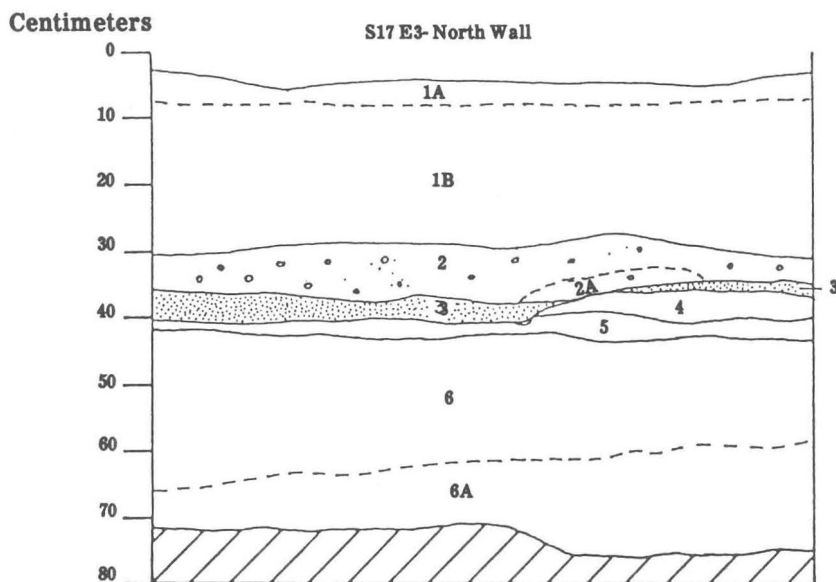
Samples of the ash layer from one test unit were taken back to the laboratory and processed using a water flotation technique which permits discovery of quantities of small artifacts. The following items were recovered: over 500 tiny pieces of burned bone, 2 pieces of green bottle glass, 190 small pieces of glazed redware,

1 piece of salt-glazed stoneware, 1 kaolin pipe fragment, 1 needle, the head of a handmade straight pin, a piece of mussel shell, a pig and a deer tooth and the burned tip of a deer antler.

The remaining inventory of historic artifacts recovered from Phase II testing consists of 1 brass cuff link or button, 1 cast pewter button, 1 piece of delftware, 2 pieces of glazed redware, 5 pieces of salt-glazed stoneware, a portion of an iron knife blade, 2 hand-wrought nails, 3 kaolin pipe fragments, a copper tang from a shoe buckle, and a fragment of either a whetstone or flagstone.

At this level of testing, several inferences could be made about the historic component of VT-RU-82. The presence of personal items, structural artifacts, burned bone and ceramic sherds in test unit S9E3 strongly suggested that an area of fairly dense trash disposal had been located. Several facts suggested that the ash layer represented a burned structure, including the thickness of the ash and charcoal, the extent of the ash which was spread over at least 16.5 feet, and the variety of artifacts found within the ash and nearby.

Figure 3
Soil Layers in Test Unit S17E3
Showing Ash Feature



KEY TO SOIL UNITS

- 1A. Sod
- 1B. Plow zone
- 2. Fill or flood deposit
- 2A. Similar to 2, but coarser
- 3. Silty sand with charcoal
- 4. Ash layer
- 5. Silty sand with charcoal lenses
- 6. Subsoil
- 6A. Subsoil

The Wright Roberts House

Discovery of this 18th-century component at VT-RU-82 prompted further archival research using primary documents as well as additional field testing. Starting from the notation on William Cockburn's 1771 map of "Right Roberts" house in the general location of a parcel of land that lies within and adjacent to the proposed highway corridor, research focused on Roberts and land transfers for this and adjacent properties. Primary documents were consulted to find more evidence about the site and its occupants. A variety of deeds, probate records, vital statistics, and manuscripts were checked for information about Wright Roberts. In addition, information supplied by local historian, Carmine Pacca, directed attention towards Solomon Purdy who married Wright Roberts' widow. The archaeological evaluation for the site itself concentrated on determining whether the remains of an actual structure could be defined, and if so, the probable type of structure. Further sampling was employed to determine the horizontal extent of the historic structure, and to identify related features and artifacts.

James Mead and many other settlers of this part of Vermont followed a migration route from Connecticut to New York and then to Vermont. Mead, for instance, was originally from Fairfield, Connecticut. He moved to the Nine Partners patent (Amenia) in Dutchess County, New York and then to Manchester, Vermont, before coming to Rutland. William Roberts, probably Wright Roberts' father, apparently followed the same route as Mead and apparently at the same time. Despite the fact that Mead and others came from New York, they received their Vermont lands under the New Hampshire grants, and according to at least one historian (Munson 1876) considered themselves New Englanders. The Mead family's arrival in Rutland has already been recounted.

The names of James Mead, William Roberts and Wright Roberts appear in numerous early documents as settlers of Socialborough, or Rutland. Both Mead and William Roberts were large landowners, and Mead was very active in local government. On the other hand, William Roberts' involvement in local government seems to have been limited by certain contentions over roads and property purchases.

Wright Roberts was probably William Roberts' son, although no confirming statements to that effect have yet been found. He was probably born about 1750 and came to Rutland in 1769 or early 1770, already married to Sarah Mead. Wright and Sarah had one son, James, who was born before March 2, 1774 and who was still considered an infant from 1774 to 1777. Wright Roberts died before March 2, 1774, when Sarah Mead Roberts married Solomon Purdy. Sarah and Solomon apparently lived in Wright Roberts' house until Sarah died in 1777. Sarah and Solomon had one child, a daughter named Sarah, who was born November 28, 1774.

Much of this information is contained in an agreement between William Roberts and Solomon Purdy made in 1782 (Rutland County Probate File no. 122). That agreement tells us about the marriage of Sarah Roberts and Solomon Purdy, the existence of James Roberts, and that Solomon "had the benefit of certain labor and possessions on a farm of land ... made by the said deceased (Wright Roberts)." In the agreement, William and Solomon acknowledge 1) that Solomon took into his possession sundry articles that belonged to Wright Roberts' estate (a cow, a calf, a coat, and an old chest), but that he had returned them to William who was serving as administrator of the estate, and 2) that Solomon cared for "James Roberts an infant son to the said deceased for the space of about 3 years (viz) from the 2nd day of March 1774 until the three years expired." (It is not clear if James Roberts then went to live with William, who was his guardian. Records indicate that James married in 1792 and died in Swanton, Vermont, in 1825.) They agreed that Solomon's use of Wright's possessions and "labor" were full and equal compensation for the support of James, and that both were discharged from making or meeting any further demands on the estate. It is interesting to note that the seals used by Roberts and Purdy on this agreement are the same shape, but not the same size, as a cuff button found at the site.

The information just presented tells us a good deal about when Wright and Sarah Roberts occupied their house. We can assume that it was built sometime between Wright's arrival in the area and the time when Cockburn surveyed the area. The date 1770 has been adopted as the "terminus post quem" — what archaeologists call the date after which a site was occupied. Determining the "terminus ante quem" — the last date the site was occupied — from the documents is less clear. We have assumed the site was definitely inhabited until 1774, and that Solomon Purdy lived there after Sarah's death, perhaps until 1777, when he ceased caring for James Roberts.

Subsequent research focused on real estate transactions. No evidence was found indicating that Wright Roberts ever owned land in Rutland, but Solomon Purdy acquired a good deal of land. A map which probably dates from 1794 includes a lot labeled "Soloman Purday" that conforms with the verbal description of the lot that Purdy purchased from James Mead in 1778 (see Figure 4). When a mylar copy of the 1794 map is placed over a topographical map at approximately the same scale, the Wright Roberts' site lies very close to the boundary between Purdy's lot and the one to the west. Because of Purdy's relationship to Sarah Roberts, efforts were made to trace ownership of Purdy's lot. Information received later from a local historian suggests that VT-RU-82 may actually be located on the lot to the west. None of the transactions examined includes definite reference to Roberts' cabin or homestead site, although many do refer to Purdy's home lot and various buildings standing in the general vicinity.

After Sarah Roberts died, Purdy married Hepsibah Mills, a widow, between 1777 and 1779. He may have built a house on his 1778 purchase after his marriage to her. Town road surveys from 1783 and 1785 place Solomon Purdy's house east of VT-RU-82, across the Clarendon River on that lot (Phyllis Humphreys, personal communication). Hepsibah Purdy inherited their dwelling house, outbuildings and some adjacent land after Purdy's death in 1819. Other portions of his real estate were given at different times to their children.

Efforts to trace ownership of the Roberts site parcel through the 19th century were complicated by references to adjacent landowners as boundaries. These names became increasingly unfamiliar, and time constraints prohibited identification efforts. However, land records in West Rutland were checked to trace ownership back through the 1900s. By 1886 (when West Rutland town records begin), the area of the site belonged to John Mead, a farmer who owned much of the land in the area. Mead family members owned the land until 1924. This information is consistent with information provided by Mrs. Phyllis Humphreys. She notes that "We have considered the meadow west of Purdy's and the river as part of the Old Mead Farm. Abner Mead, son of James, settled early on his father's land on the right of Prentiss Willard." This is the lot west of Purdy's on the 1794 map.

Much time-consuming research in local land records would clarify 18th and 19th century ownership and the land where VT-RU-82 is located. However, documentary evidence did suggest that the site may have been inhabited only briefly. Archaeological work that followed confirmed this assumption.

The results of the intensive phase of testing and of the subsequent documentary research led to the hypothesis that the charcoal and ash feature represented the burned remains of a structure that was probably the 1770 homestead of Wright Roberts. The final phase of archaeological testing at VT-RU-82 had two objectives. First, we hoped to gather material remains that would explain the nature of the ash feature. Did it represent the remains of a buried structure? A house? An outbuilding? What was its size, its shape? Second, we wanted to determine the presence of any archaeological features (i.e., other buildings, trash pits, privies) outside the limits of the area tested previously.

To find additional features, the grid of 50 x 50 cm test pits at 4-meter intervals was extended to the east, south and west. Results from most of the additional test pits were negative. Test pits to the south and east contained no 18th-century artifacts, no features, no ash layer. In fact, the old 18th-century surface had been incorporated into the modern plow zone. Test pits to the west contained some 18th-

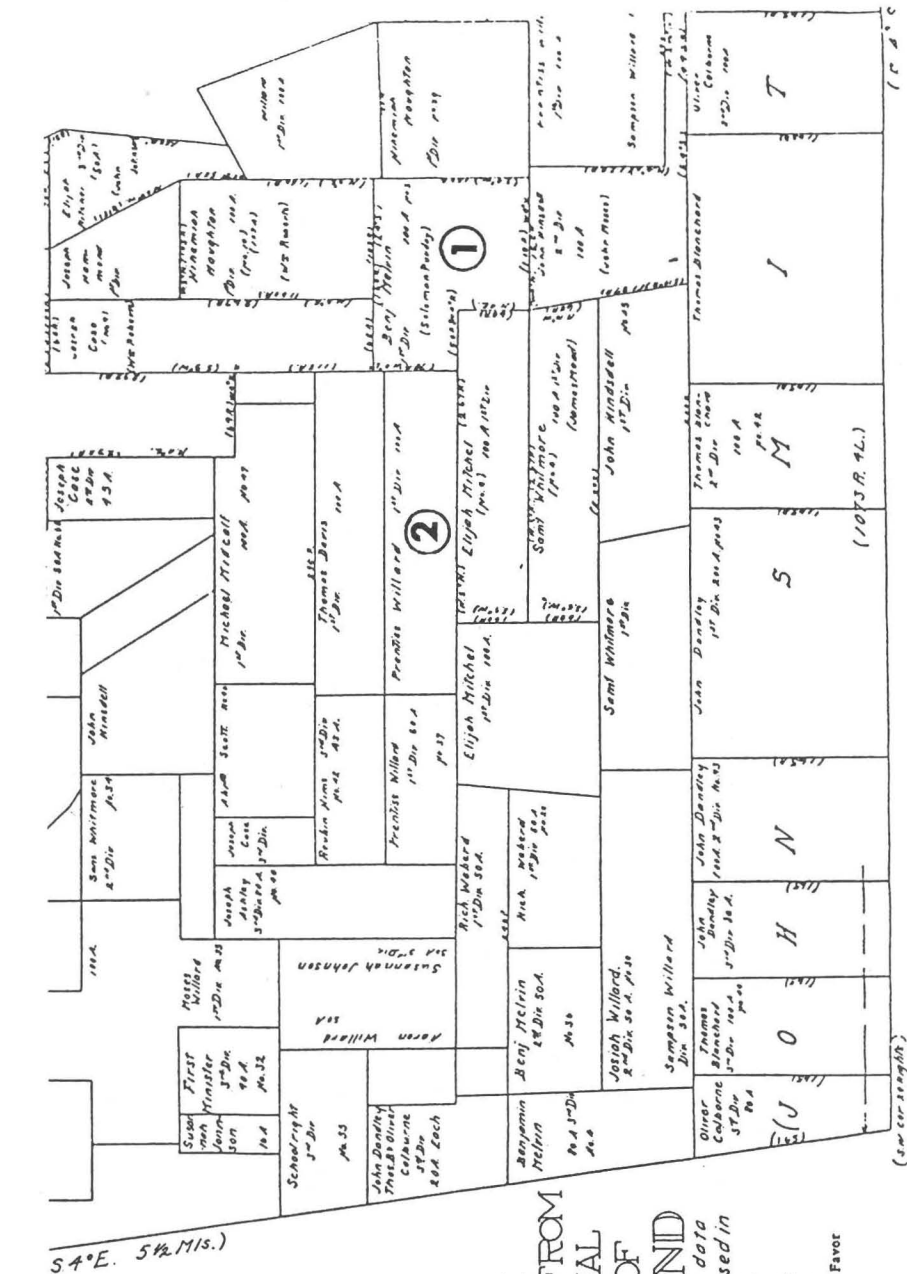


Figure 4 Survey of lots in Rutland, probably drawn around 1794, showing lots of Solomon Purdy (1) and Prentiss Willard/Abner Mead (2).

century artifacts, but these were found in soil levels *above* the 18th-century level, and represented what archaeologists call "horizontal displacement", when more recent plowing drags artifacts from elsewhere.

However, one of the test pits (S21W5) located west of the ash layer disclosed a 4-5 cm thick lense of dark soil and charcoal beneath a coarse sand flood deposit and the plow zone. This test pit was expanded to 1 m x 50 cm. Artifacts recovered from the charcoal level included 3 pieces of burned bone, 1 piece of stoneware, and 2 pieces of prehistoric pottery. Two possible post molds were also noted. The presence of the stoneware sherd and the nature, depth, and stratigraphic location of the charcoal level indicated that it was associated with the ash and charcoal level identified earlier. Based on artifact distributions and site stratigraphy, test pit S21W5 appeared to mark the approximate southwestern boundary of the historic component of VT-RU-82.

To determine more precisely the nature of the ash feature, trenches were laid out east and west from the test pit where the feature was first identified (S17E3), and then north and south from these trenches (see Figure 5). Trenches were dug instead of test pits because they provided a better horizontal view of the extent of the feature.

Excavation of these trenches provided an expanded variety of historic artifacts that included a dark green bottle, clear glass fragments, sherds of red-bodied earthenware, delft and stoneware, kaolin pipe stems, handwrought nails, brick and a gunflint. Three clusters of bone refuse were noted that included deer, cow and pig.

Although efforts were made to avoid removing the prehistoric level (level 6), additional prehistoric artifacts were recovered. These included more stone flakes, a chert scraper, a triangular projectile point made of quartzite, and the tip of an antler worked into a tool.

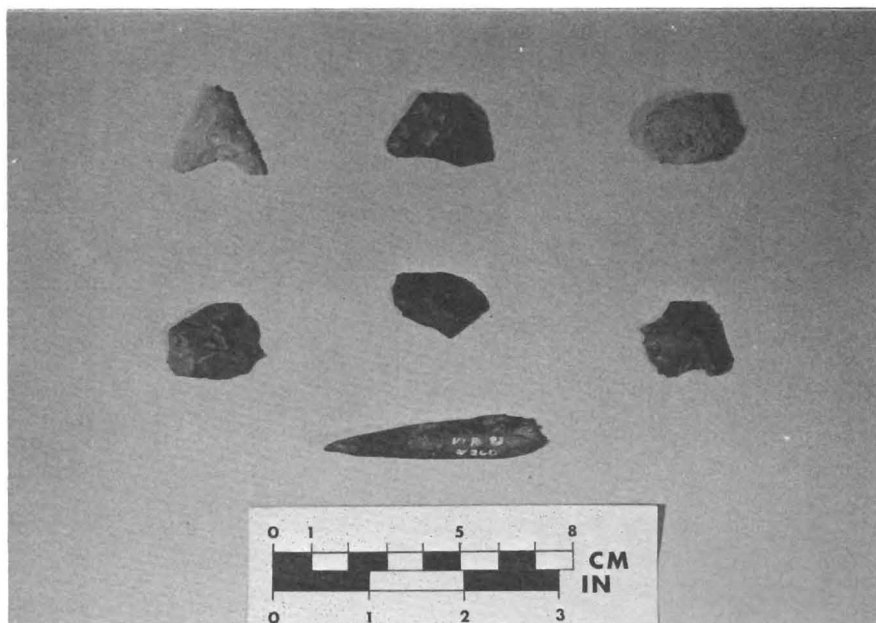
The trench excavations also indicated approximate boundaries for the structure. Ash was confined to two fairly distinct concentrations, but the charcoal extended well beyond the ash. Although the break between the charcoal and ash was not always clear, the break between areas with charcoal and areas without is very abrupt (see Figure 5). An alignment of flat, platy rocks was also uncovered at the break between charcoal and non-charcoal areas. Their alignment and location suggests that they may have been sill stones placed beneath structural beams to prevent rotting and aid stability. The structure had no foundation or cellar. The presence of artifacts and bone scattered outside this line of rocks would be consistent with a pattern of trash disposal outside a structure, typical in the early colonial period.

Results of this last stage of excavation led to several conclusions. First, the extent of the charcoal area and the presence of the aligned rocks indicate that a small structure did stand here. The absence of a foundation or cellar suggests that it was a temporary structure, perhaps a log cabin. Second, the artifacts recovered indicate that the structure was a domestic, residential site occupied in the late 18th century. They are mainly related to food procurement, preparation or storage (ceramics, bottle glass, burned bones, a gunflint) or to personal use (pipe stems). All artifacts fit into a late 18th-century period of occupation. (This is true of historic artifacts found during all phases of digging.) Third, it appears that the structure burned after it had been abandoned. If it had burned while occupied, considerably more material should have been recovered.

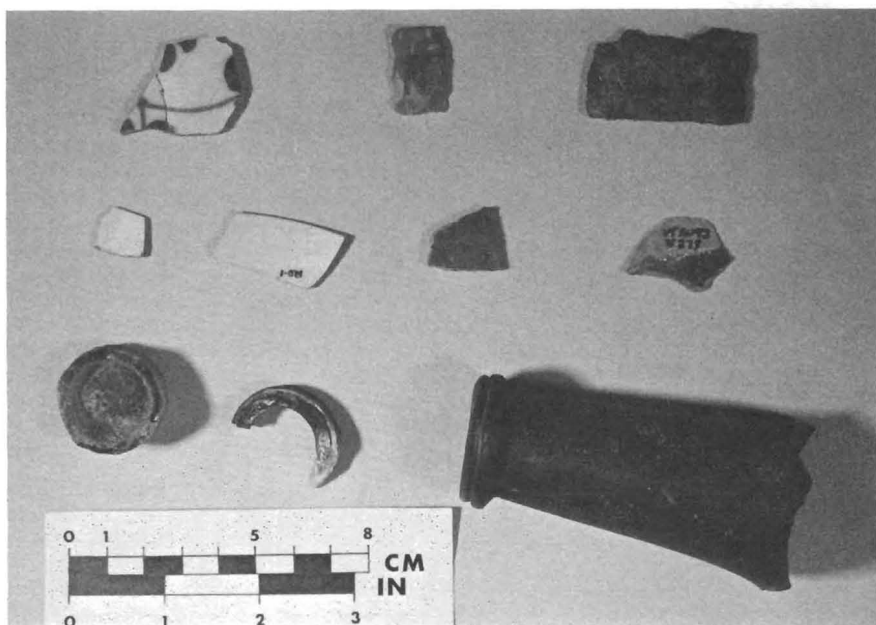
Site Significance

Results of the documentary research and the archaeological testing provide tangible evidence of Rutland's past. VT-RU-82 is important for the information it contains about both prehistoric and historic period occupations. The unique qualities of the site ensure that it is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This prompted the Agency of Transportation to redesign the highway alignment to avoid the site and arrange to protect it from future disturbance. The significant aspects of the site and possible directions for future research are presented below.

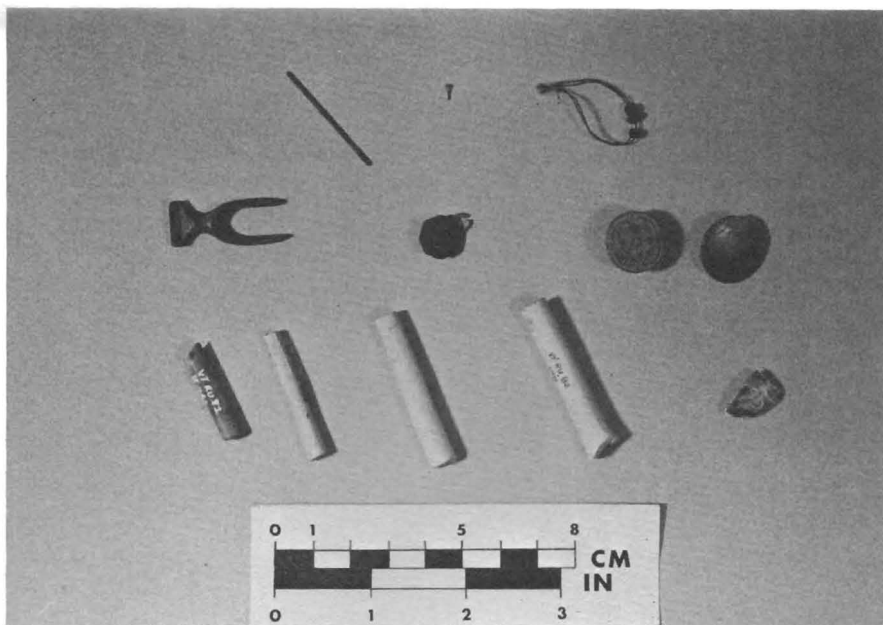
The prehistoric component of VT-RU-82 is important for the time period it represents and its geographical location. The triangular-shaped arrow points and



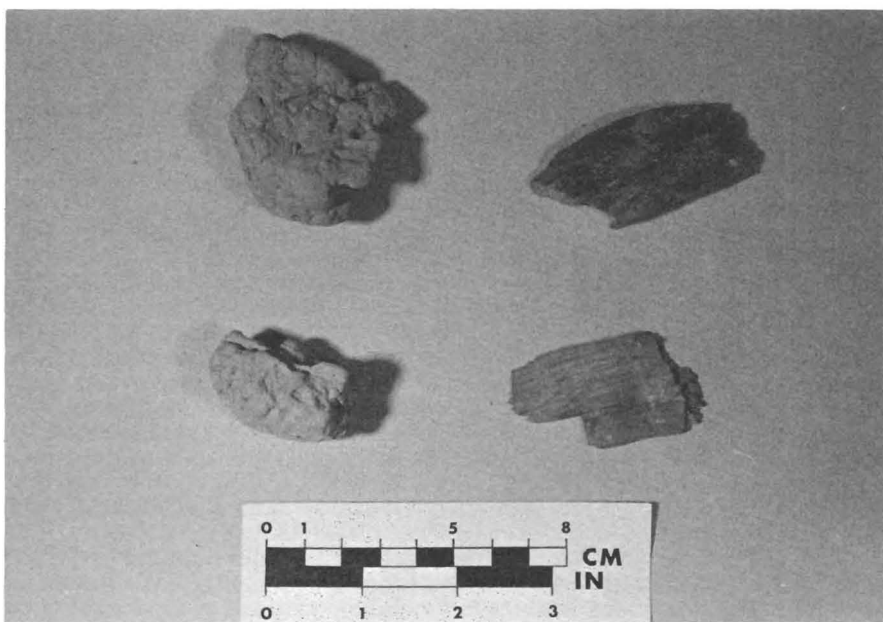
Prehistoric artifacts recovered at VT-RU-82. Top row, left to right: quartzite triangular projectile point, tip broken; chert triangular projectile point, tip and corner broken; sherd of pottery. Middle row: chert biface; two utilized chert flakes. Bottom row: deer antler with tip worked for use as a tool.



Sample of domestic artifacts recovered. Top row, left to right: sherds of delft ware; gun flint; broken knife blade. Middle row, left to right: two fragments of fine salt-glazed stoneware, possibly rims of tea cups; two sherds of glazed red earthenware. Bottom row: fragments of dark green glass bottles.



Personal items found at VT-RU-82. Top row, left to right: needle; head of hand-made straight pin; black glass beads (thread added for display). Middle row: tang of a shoe buckle; buttons. First one is a cuff button. Bottom row: fragments of clay pipe stems and a decorated pipe bowl.



Left: handmade brick fragments. Upper right: fragment of sawed wood. Bottom right: adze chip.



Field crew excavating in Area A. Route 4 to West Rutland is visible in the center right.

the characteristics of the prehistoric pottery sherds indicate that the site dates to the Late Woodland Period and probably to the 15th or 16th-century A.D. This date is not typical of the Woodland Period sites recorded elsewhere in the Otter Creek watershed. Because the site is located between two of the primary prehistoric transportation-communication corridors of western Vermont — Lake Champlain and the Hudson River valley to the south with Otter Creek to the north — it may provide information about the interaction of cultural groups from different locations. In particular, the site lies on the presumed historical boundary of the Mahican and Western Abenaki hunting territories of the 17th-century, and may provide comparative data for looking at the interaction between New York and Vermont aboriginal populations during this period.

The historic component of VT-RU-82 is unique in three ways: the site type, the short period of occupancy, and its integrity. The site consists of the structural remains, features and artifacts associated with an assumed log house built by one of the first settlers of Rutland, Vermont. It is likely that the site represents the first type of shelter typically built by the earliest settlers. The site was probably built in 1770, and possibly occupied only until 1777. It was burned after being abandoned. Artifacts found here date from no later than the 1790s, and possibly earlier. Although a number of houses were built in Vermont before the Revolutionary War, this is the only domestic site from that period found to date that did not experience extended occupation and subsequent disruption of its 18th-century component. Especially important from an archaeological point of view, the site's 18th-century land surface has been protected by coarse sand flood deposits and a modern plow zone and has experienced only minimal disturbance.

Information from the site can contribute greatly to understanding early settlement in the Rutland area and in Vermont generally. Presently, little information about pre-Revolutionary era settlers is available. Artifactual information from the Wright Roberts site can be related to the socioeconomic status of Roberts and Solomon Purdy and can provide evidence about domestic activities at the site. Artifacts combined with faunal information can provide information about the con-



Field crew working in Area A, in the vicinity of VT-RU-82.

sumption and subsistence patterns of early settlers. The site can also provide comparative date that will be useful at a regional level. Material from this site could be compared with that from sites of similar age in other locations to consider regional variations in behavior patterns. For instance, archaeological evidence from the site may be useful in a study of families who migrated into Dutchess County, New York, and then into Vermont, perhaps to determine the extent of Hudson Valley cultural influences in this process (Paul Huey, personal communication).

Acknowledgments

Dr. Peter A. Thomas directed the archaeological survey, assisted by two crew chiefs and a large crew. This article is based on the final report prepared for the Agency of Transportation (Thomas et al. 1983). The author of this article conducted the historical research. A number of local residents provided valuable assistance. Mr. Carmine Pacca of Rutland should be mentioned specifically, because he shared information from his exhaustive study of early Rutland settlers and provided key clues in the study of Wright Roberts' homestead. Personnel from the Agency of Transportation made efforts during this study to design alternate plans that would avoid destruction of VT-RU-82. Paul Huey, Senior Scientist, Archeology, New York Division for Historic Preservation, reviewed historic artifacts and provided documentary information and research suggestions.

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(1794?) Plan copied from original plan of Rutland, with additional data . . .
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Definition of terms

Chert and Quartzite are types of stone used by Indians to make tools.

Flakes are stone fragments removed from a larger piece of stone during tool manufacture.

A projectile point is a finished stone point attached to the end of a spear or an arrow. More popularly, but not always accurately, referred to as an arrowhead.

A core represents an early stage in the manufacture of a stone tool, when a piece of raw material has been reduced in size and thickness.

An archaeological feature is nonartifactual evidence of past human activity, such as the circular outline of reddened earth from an Indian hearth, or the charcoal, and ash layers representing the burned Wright Roberts' house.

Kaolin is a kind of white clay used to make pipes.



Author

Prudence Doherty has a B.A. degree in history (1975); M.A. in geography (1979). Both degrees are from the University of Chicago. She was program assistant, Consulting Archaeology Program, Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont (1979-1985).

GRANDFATHER SOLOMON PURDY

Edward C. Purdy, a former editor of the **Rutland Herald** in the mid-19th-century, wrote an article entitled "The Battle of Hubbardton", which was printed in the February 1, 1856, issue of the **Rutland Herald**. In the article, he refers to his grandfather, Solomon Purdy, who married Wright Roberts' widow, Sarah Mead Roberts. The couple, no doubt, inhabited the Roberts' log cabin. (See the reproduced portion of Scott's 1854 map for the location of the cabin, between the land of A. Mead and J. A. Deland.)

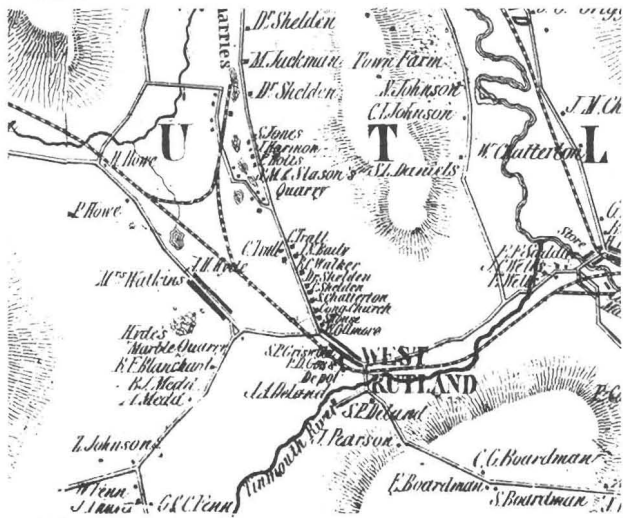
Pertinent parts of Purdy's newspaper article have been extrapolated by Dawn Hance, Research Committee, Rutland Historical Society. Edward C. Purdy, grandson of Solomon Purdy, wrote:

Mercy Mead Smith related that her brother-in-law, Wright Roberts, was the first man buried in to old Center Rutland Cemetery. Her sister, Sarah Mead Roberts Purdy, who died February 14, 1777, was the first woman interred there. By 1779, Solmon Purdy had taken another wife. A June 19, 1783, road survey indicates that he had removed from the log cabin to a house near the foot of Boardman Hill (east of J. A. Deland on Scott's 1854 map), but not far from the log cabin.

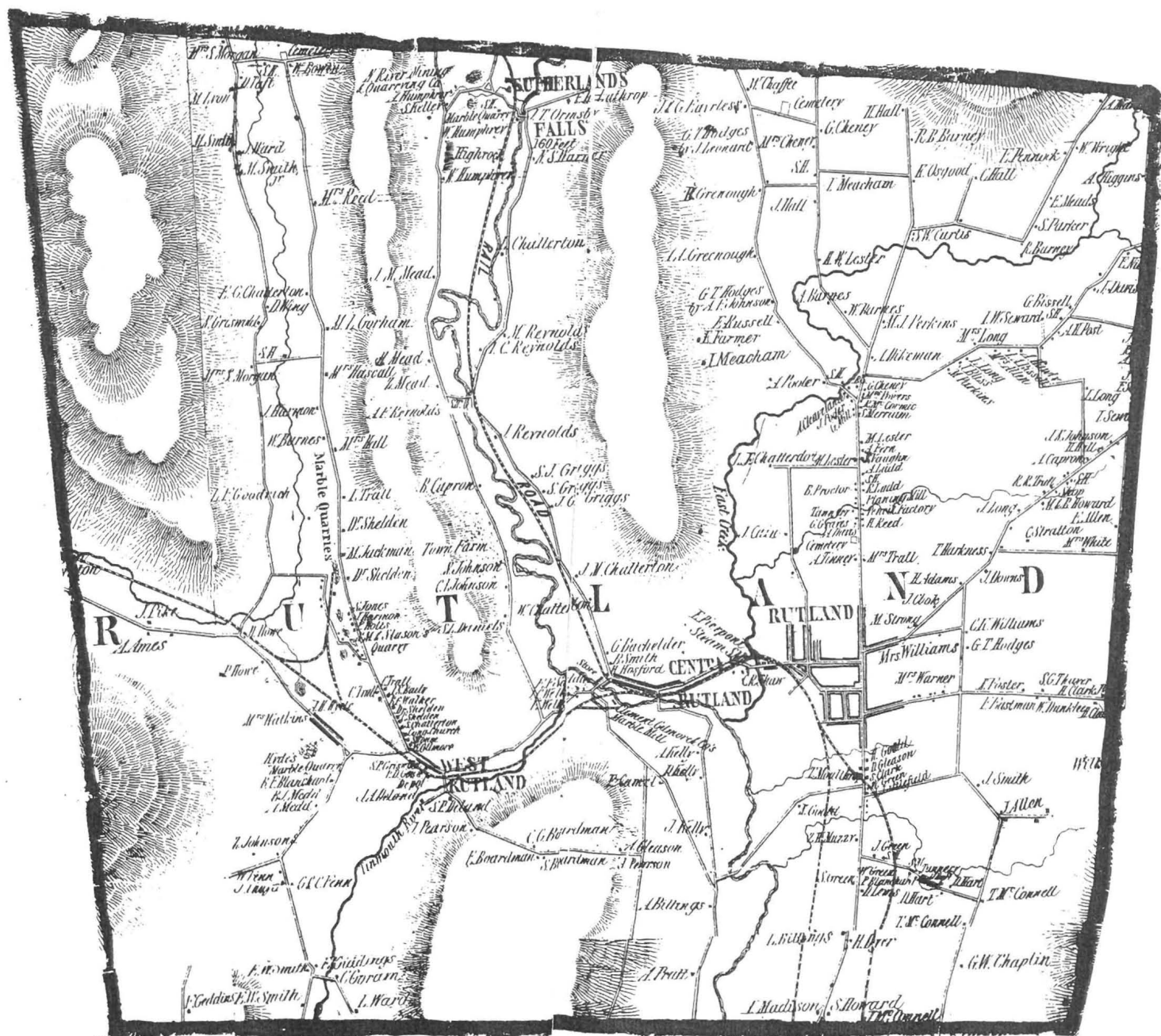
...The greater portion of the scattered inhabitants of Rutland County, after the Battle of Hubbardton,* sought safety in flight to Manchester and Bennington. My own parental (Sic: he must mean "paternal") grandfather occupied one of the few log houses then existing in Rutland. It was situated on the interval in West Rutland, about half-way between the present residences of Capt. Abner Mead and Mr. Jos. A. Deland. As the retreating soldiers came past, nearly exhausted with running, and spread the alarm, the men, women and children "stood not upon the order of their going, but went". They possessed but few valuables, and these they left or took with them, just as their alarm rose or fell for the moment. One family left the fat boiling over the fire, and took only a tin dipper! My grandfather hastily hid a few articles in the wood (Sic) nearby and left a family of pigs in the pen. On his return, after the surrender of Burgoyne,** he found most of the hidden articles (among them a salt mortar which I now hold as a family relic), but his pigs had disappeared. He knew pretty well where to look for them. A tory family named Lee inhabited the neighboring town of Ira, and in their possession he found his pigs in such good condition that, torries as they were, he could not find it in his heart to deprive them of all pay for their trouble, and he gave them two of his pigs. A few days afterwards the whole family of Lees were "taken with a leaving", and sought safety in Canada.

* July, 1777

**** October, 1777**



A portion of Scott's 1854 map of Rutland. The log cabin inhabited by Wright Roberts was located between the land of A. Mead and J.A. Deland.



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The Rutland Historical Society was founded in 1969 to preserve, study and disseminate the history of the original Town of Rutland as chartered by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth in 1761, now comprised of the City of Rutland (1892) and the Towns of Rutland (1761), Proctor (1886) and West Rutland (1886). The Society maintains and operates The Rutland Museum in the historic Bank of Rutland building built in 1825, now owned by the City of Rutland, and The Vermont Farm and Rural Life Museum at the Vermont State Fair. A research library and the historical collections are maintained in the Museums and the historic Nickwackett Fire Station. Gifts or bequests of articles of historical interest or money are welcome at all times and are deductible for income tax purposes.

Membership in the Society is open to all upon payment of appropriate dues. (See the dues schedule below.) With membership, for its period, go a subscription to the Quarterly, any newsletters, a copy of the Annual Report, entitlement to vote at business meetings, and benefits accruing from support of the Society's Museums, exhibits, programs, collections and library. The year through which membership is paid and the category are noted on all address labels.

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Annual dues categories are:	Sustaining \$100 or more	Contributing \$15
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Advance payment for 2 or 3 years is welcome, helping to reduce costs.

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62 Ormsbee Ave., Proctor, VT. 05765

Manuscripts are invited; address correspondence to the Managing Editor.

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